URI Higher Education Initiative for College & Career Readiness

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**NEWSLETTER**

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## College and Career Readiness & Common Core State Standards

***What Does it Mean to be Career Ready?***

The Career Readiness Partner Council, a coalition of education, policy, business and philanthropic organizations, has released *Building Blocks for Change: What it Means to be Career Ready.* This report defines what it means to be career ready. It identifies the academic, technical, and employability knowledge, skills, and dispositions that one needs as well as emphasizes the importance of adaptability and commitment to lifelong learning. Central to the success of career readiness is a comprehensive system of support that includes policymakers, high school teachers, business and industry, higher education, parents, students, and the community. [Download Report](http://careerreadynow.org/docs/CRPC_4pagerB.pdf)

***Report: Overwhelming Majority of CCRI Students Not ‘College Ready’***

In a 2010 survey of incoming freshmen at the Community College of Rhode Island (CCRI), 92.4 of students said they were hoping to earn a certificate, degree or transfer from the school, but less than one third will do so in three years, according to a report released last month by researchers from the Rhode Island Campus Compact Engaged Scholars Statewide Presidential Faculty Fellowship Program.

The report, titled “Not ‘College Ready,’” breaks down previously released statistics such as the number of incoming CCRI students who have to take at least one remedial course as well graduation rates and suggests social promotion may be one of the leading reasons the majority of students find college level work “overly challenging.” [Link to Article](http://www.golocalprov.com/news/report-overwhelming-majority-of-ccri-students-not-college-ready/?utm_source=iContact&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=golocal&utm_content=Fri%2C+October+19%2C+2012)  [Link to Abstract](http://christopherratcliffe.wordpress.com/2012/08/29/the-ccri-graduation-rate-study/)  [Download Report](http://christopherratcliffe.files.wordpress.com/2012/08/not_college_ready12.pdf)

# *Translating the Common Core for Dual-Language Classrooms*

When it comes to putting the new common standards into classroom practice, dual-language teachers must prepare and adapt their instructional strategies to teach the more-rigorous common standards in language arts and mathematics not only in English, but in a second language.

In many dual-language programs, particularly in the early grades, students are learning as much as 90 percent of their content in the target, non-English language.

So what does the common core look like in Spanish language arts, for example? Who is doing the kind of translation and modification that dual-language teachers need to bridge the language they are teaching in with the content standards? And where can dual-language teachers find more resources to help them? [Read More](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/learning-the-language/2012/10/translating_the_common_core_fo.html)

## Resources

***Access ELA and Math Rubrics to Evaluate the Quality of Lessons and Units***

The Tri-State Collaborative (Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island) has developed criterion-based ELA and Math Rubrics and review processes to evaluate Common Core aligned curriculum resources. The ELA and Math Rubrics and introductory slides can be accessed [here](http://engageny.org/resource/tri-state-quality-review-rubric-and-rating-process/)**.**

***EngageNY Provides a Common Core Toolkit***

EngageNY is a collaborative platform for educators offers The Common Core Toolkit. Although primarily focused toward teachers in New York, they include many general resources which will assist with the implementation of the Common Core. [Link](http://engageny.org/resource/common-core-toolkit/)

***National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) and THIRTEEN Offer Webinar***

NCTM and THIRTEEN will present a free webinar, *Reasoning and Sense Making in Context: Algebra Resources that Support Common Core Standards* for mathematics educators on Tuesday, October 30, 2012 at 4:00 pm EST and 7:00 pm EST. For more information and to register**:** [Link](http://www.thirteen.org/get-the-math/teachers/overview-of-the-lessons/26/)

## English Language Arts

***Fiction vs. Nonfiction Smackdown*** Washington Post Education Column

There is no more troubling fact about U.S. education than this: The reading scores of 17-year-olds have shown no significant improvement since 1980.

The new Common Core State Standards in 46 states and the District are designed to solve that problem. Among other things, students are being asked to read more nonfiction, considered by many experts to be the key to success in college or the workplace. [Read More](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/fiction-vs-nonfiction-smackdown/2012/10/17/cbb333d0-16f0-11e2-a55c-39408fbe6a4b_story.html)

# *The Challenge of Challenging Text* Feature Article *Educational Leadership*

How is reading complex text like lifting weights? Just as it's impossible to build muscle without weight or resistance, it's impossible to build robust reading skills without reading challenging text. The common core state standards in language arts treat text difficulty as akin to weight or resistance in an exercise program.

## Gone are the days when text was judged as difficult solely on the basis of sentence length and syllable count. We now know that many factors affect text complexity. With this increased understanding, teachers do not have to rely on intuition to figure out which books their students can handle. Instead, teachers can select texts worthy of instruction and align their instructional efforts to ensure that all their students read complex, interesting, and important texts. [Read More](http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/mar12/vol69/num06/The-Challenge-of-Challenging-Text.aspx)

## Mathematics

***Partnership Focuses on Redesigning Secondary Mathematics Teacher Preparation***

Universities, community college, and K-12 districts in 30 states have come together to work on redesigning secondary mathematics teacher preparation to align to the Common Core State Standards. The Mathematics Teacher Education Partnership includes 38 teams across 30 states. They will focus on building a national consensus on guiding principles for the preparation of math teachers, promoting partnerships throughout the teacher development process, developing a research agenda, serving as a clearinghouse for best practices, and advocating for change.

[Read More](http://mte-partnership.org/)

***Mathematics Teacher Education Partnership***

The discussion paper *The Common Core State Standards and Teacher Preparation: The Role of Higher Education* was released during the launch for the Mathematics Teacher Education Partnership in October 2011 and includes action steps for higher education institutions, disciplinary departments, and teacher education departments**.** [Link](http://www.aplu.org/document.doc?id=3482)

***Implementation of Common Core State Standards is Important***

Dr. William Schimidt, Michigan state University Distinguished Professor, discussed key conclusions from his research Common Core State Standards Math: The Relationship Between High Standards, Systemic Implementation and Student Achievement at an event in May co-sponsored by Achieve, Chiefs for Change and the Foundation for Excellence in Education. He detailed how the Common Core Mathematics Standards can improve the performance of U.S. students if implemented appropriately.

Common Core Math Standards Implementation Can Lead to Improved Student Achievement

[Read More](http://www.achieve.org/common-core-math-standards-implementation-can-lead-improved-student-achievement)

Watch a video of the event [Link](http://vimeo.com/41542448)

Download the PowerPoint [Link](http://www.achieve.org/CCSS-schmidt-research)

***GE Foundation Gives $1 Million Grant to Research on Common Core Mathematics Standards***

Dr. William Schimidt and Michigan State University researchers will receive $1 million from the GE Foundation to expand his previous research on Common Core Mathematics Standards. Citing the importance of appropriate implementation to the success of the Common Core standards, the next phase of the research will include the ongoing study of states’ implementation of the standards.

[Read More](http://edwp.educ.msu.edu/news/2012/ge-foundation-funds-research-on-common-core-math-standards/)

## Related Issues and News

***Choice and Markets: The Reprise*** Education Week Blog

This is a follow-up to a piece about the theory and practice of choice and markets in the education arena. [Read More](http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/top_performers/2012/10/choice_and_markets_the_reprise.html)

***Choosing Computing Devices for Common Assessments*** Feature Article *Education Week*

By 2014-15, students in nearly every state and the District of Columbia are expected to be logging online for formative and summative assessments in English/language arts and mathematics as part of their states’ adoption of the Common Core State Standards.

What’s less clear is what devices they’ll be using. Desktops, laptops, netbooks, smartphones, and tablets are all being considered by states and districts. And it’s likely, experts say, that no one device for online test delivery will gain universal acceptance. [Read More](http://www.edweek.org/dd/articles/2012/10/17/01devices.h06.html)

## Project News

***Symposium 1 a success!***

The First URI Higher Education Initiative for College & Career Readiness Symposium was a success. This symposium was for the core steering committee members and focused on higher education’s role in the transition to Common Core State Standards and the assessment of college and career readiness.

The symposium was held on October 24, 2012 at the University Club on the main campus of University of Rhode Island and was facilitated by project leaders Kees de Groot and Diane Kern. Along with representatives from the various URI academic departments, in attendance were Associate Commissioner for Academic Planning and Policy at the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education Deborah Grossman-Garber, Dean Brownell from the College of Arts and Sciences, Dean **Ciccomascolo** from the College of Human Science and Services, and David Byrd, director of the School of Education at the University of Rhode Island.

To view the materials distributed at the symposium including the main PowerPoint visit the Wiki and click on the **On-site** tab under **Events** and locate the heading for **Symposium 1**.

***The wiki is public!***

The URI Higher Education Initiative for College & Career Readiness wiki page is public and available for all your college and career readiness and common core enjoyment. Please bookmark and visit often. [Wiki Here](https://uricollegecareerreadiness.wikispaces.com/)